

ventured a subscription of a million and a half of dollars. It does not become me to advise, yet may I be permitted to say, that there is a manifest difference between a community such as the District of Columbia, and a state with the resources of Maryland, venturing upon a great—a national undertaking, in such unequal proportions to their respective interests.

I might show various calculations, and certain ones I believe, as to probable dividends and gains from the Canal to the stockholders. I will however forbear such arguments. I entertain no doubt, and so communicate it, that the stock of the canal when completed will be profitable. But were it clearly ascertained, that no dividend was to accrue on the completion of it, I would urge notwithstanding, that the state of Maryland owed it to herself, and the prosperity of her citizens, to prosecute it at every hazard. Individuals, who invest, in stock, their money, necessarily look to probable profits as matter of primary consideration. But in communities and states, it should be different. To draw the people in close and friendly alliance—to diffuse general benefits; and to produce a wholesome and mutually dependant relation, each to the other, are, and ought to be, the main inducements of governments to act, for thence arise wealth and profit to the people; and of course to the state. We have seen instances of a government being rich, and the people poor; but the converse of it cannot exist, at least in our country: here, a prosperous people, must ever make a prosperous government, and it is strange if it shall not be so every where.

Pardon me, for the length of my remarks. I had not intended to trespass so far—the subject has carried me beyond what I anticipated; but having said so much, I must ask the favor of you, to extend to the matters commented upon, a dispassionate consideration; and permit me to subscribe myself:

Very Respectfully,  
J. H. EATON.

*Messrs. Wm. D. Merrick,  
Thos. Snowden,  
S. N. C. White,  
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Committee.